

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A BIB carton assembly process comprising the steps of:

- providing a bag element having a spout;
- providing a carton element having a plurality of walls, the carton element articulatable into a rectangular cubic container, and, including a collar aperture;
- wrapping the carton (41) element around a bag (51) element, so that the carton element surrounds the bag element;
- extending the spout through a carton aperture;
- providing a retention collar separate from the carton element having a tray, a rim upstand extending upwardly from the tray and a peripheral flange extending outwardly about the rim upstand at an upper end of the rim upstand opposite the tray, the tray further including an aperture extending therethrough, the retention collar having a configuration which precludes passage thereof through the collar aperture;
- securing the spout to the retention collar by extending the spout through the aperture of the retention collar, to, in turn, place the bag on one side of the carton aperture and the retention collar on the other side of the carton aperture, thereby capturing the carton element therebetween and retaining the carton element with the bag element and the retention collar, with the BIB assembly, capable of being flat-packed for efficient transport or storage.

2. (Previously presented) A BIB carton assembly process of claim 1, further comprising the step of: securing a handle (13) to one of the retention collar and the carton element.

3. (Original) A BIB carton assembly process of claim 1, wherein locating retention collar (14), is integrated with a handle (13) element.

4. (Previously presented) A BIB carton assembly process of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- supporting the retention collar;
- filling the bag element to allow bag (51) fill;
- articulating the carton element through filling of the bag element; and
- coupling the retention collar with the collar aperture of the carton element;
- completing the articulation of the carton element by closure and sealing of a plurality of top (56,42, 48) and bottom (57,58) carton flaps.

5. (Previously presented) A BIB carton assembly process of claim 4, further comprising the step of: injecting air into bag element (51), to act as a leak test, prior to contents fill.

6. (Previously presented) A BIB carton assembly process of claim 1, further comprising the step of: erecting the BIB carton into a completed pack after transfer to a remote fill line.

7. (Previously presented) A BIB carton assembly process of claim 1, further comprising the step of: erecting the BIB carton into a completed pack at a local fill line.

8. (Previously presented) A BIB carton assembly process of claim 1, further comprising the step of: erecting the BIB carton into a completed pack preparatory to filling.

9. (Previously presented) A BIB carton assembly process of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

- erecting sub-assembly (20), by selective holding and folding of a plurality of carton (41) flaps;
- sealing top (56,42, 48) and bottom (57,58) carton flaps;
- coupling the retention collar to the collar aperture of the carton element; and
- filling bag (51).

10. – 38. (canceled)

39. (Previously presented) A BIB carton assembly process of claim 4, wherein the step of filling comprises the step of:

- filling the bag element with air, to, in turn, determine the integrity of the bag element;
- and

the method further comprises the step of:

- filling the bag element with a fluid after completing the articulation of the carton element.